

THE NKW PREFECT OF THE POLICE.

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My appointment to the Prefecture of the Police was, as will be seen, a late thought of measure, almost as late indeed as Napoleon's proposition to send me as his Minister Plenipotentiary to Switzerland. In *now* accepting office I was well convinced of the inutility of any effort that might be made to arrest the progress of the, fast approaching and menacing events. Being introduced into the King's cabinet his Majesty asked me what I thought of the situation of affairs, "I think, Sire, that Bonaparte will be here in five or six days."⁷ — "What, sir?" — «Yes, Sire.»³ — "But proper measures are taken, the necessary orders given, and the Marshals are faithful to me." — "Sire, I suspect no man's fidelity; but I can assure your Majesty that, as Bonaparte has landed, he will be here within a week. I know him, and your Majesty cannot know him as well as I do; but I can venture, to assure your Majesty with the same confidence that he will not be here six months hence. He will be hurried into acts of folly which will ruin him." — "M. de Bourrienne, I hope the best from events, but if misfortune again compel me to leave France, and your second prediction be fulfilled, you may rely on me." During this short conversation the King appeared perfectly tranquil and resigned,

The next day I again visited the Tuileries, whither I had at those perilous times frequent occasion to repair. On that day I received a list of twenty-five persons whom I was ordered to arrest. I took the liberty to observe that such a proceeding was not only useless but likely to produce a very injurious effect at that critical moment. The reasons I urged had not all the effect I expected. However, some relaxation as to twenty-three of the twenty-five was conceded, but it was intimated that Fouché and Davout should be arrested without delay. The King repeatedly said, "I wish you to arrest Fouché." — "Sir, I beseech your Majesty to consider the inutility of this as a measure," — "I am resolved upon Fouché's arrest. But I am sure you will miss him, for André could not catch him."

After this formal order from the King I left the Tuileries, carrying with me the following list. I have preserved the